

From: Kevin McKeown <kevin@mckeown.net>
To: A7.A7(WKENNARD)
Date: Tue, Nov 17, 1998 1:04 AM
Subject: Elected official request

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FROM: Santa Monica City Councilmember

RE: Low-power broadcasting, FCC RM 9208, 9242, 9246

Dear William,

I am a newly elected Santa Monica City Councilmember, hoping to put on the air a municipal radio station here. The reasons why this would be an indispensable community institution, making city government far more accessible, are outlined in the appended article I co-wrote for the Santa Monica Sun.

The FCC appears poised to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule-Making on or about December 15th which would create licensed, community-based, low-power FM.

William, I'm asking your support for low-power FM, with the hope that Santa Monica can be the first city to put such a government service on the air. Again, please read the appended article to see what this could mean to residents.

Sincerely,

Kevin McKeown
Councilmember-elect
848-E 16th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90403

(excerpted from the Santa Monica SUN 5/8/98)

Your daughter hits the first grand slam ever on the new Samohi softball field. You hear it live on the radio.

A startling solution for Santa Monica's affordable housing crisis is proposed at the Planning Commission. You hear it live on the radio.

Our School Board votes for a six month summer vacation starting in April. You hear it live on the radio.

It could happen. Well, except maybe that six month vacation.

All it would take is switching on a low-power radio transmitter and opening the microphone to the events and the people of Santa Monica. The community would instantaneously be better informed and connected.

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Our Council has wisely invested in the future of municipal communication, just this week adopting a forward-looking Telecommunications Master Plan.

One of that Plan's public outreach focus groups sparked further discussion of a simple, inexpensive technology that reaches virtually every Santa Monica... radio.

With a tiny but transformative signal serving just our eight square miles of Santa Monica, we could turn the radios we already own into valuable civic tools. What could be more sensible?

...Interference with broadcast commerce is not a factor in Santa Monica. There is at least one spot on the FM dial where other signals cannot be heard anyway, and a deliberately limited Santa Monica signal would fade just beyond our city limits.

Arguments that radio transmitters must be operated by licensed professionals are outdated. Modern digital electronics are stable and self-adjusting. A low-power transmitter is far easier to operate properly than the average home VCR...

A local microradio station... would become an indispensable community institution, making city government far more accessible.

Besides live and taped City Council, Board and Commission meetings, (it) could bring cultural, educational and other local events home to our seniors.

With will and organizing, we can make community radio a reality in Santa Monica.